

Regular Meeting of the
Downtown Development Authority
Thursday, November 12, 2015
Broward Center for the Performing Arts
Einstein Room

ROLL CALL

COMMUNICATIONS TO CITY COMMISSION

BOARD PRESENT: Michael Weymouth, Chair
Jim Ellis, Treasurer
Tim Petrillo, Secretary
Gregory Durden, Board Member
John Ropes, Board Member

NOT PRESENT: Dennis F. O'Shea, Vice-Chair
William H. Bodenhamer, Jr., Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

John Milledge, DDA Legal Counsel	Alex Saiz
Chris Wren, DDA Executive Director	David Vozzolo
Marti Brown, Administrative Coordinator	Jon Auerbach
Chadwick Blue, Urban Planner	Jeff Jenkins
Jenni Morejon	Robert Borowski
Genia Ellis	Norm Adams
Liran Friedman	Robert Lochrie
Gavin Thomas	Cristina Hudson
Martin Benzaquen	John Bertino
Heidi Davis	Courtney Crush
Michelle Trca	Dev Motwani

PRESIDING: Michael Weymouth, Chair

Because quorum was not yet established the meeting was opened as a workshop at 8:32 a.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

R-1 Police Report

Sergeant Borowski said there has been an increase in Part One crimes in the downtown but a decrease in robberies and business burglaries. He said auto burglaries have increased and there was one robbery. Sergeant Jenkins said they have personnel in place now and he gave statistical information.

R-2 Monthly Security Ambassador Update

Mr. Wetherington was not present.

Chairman Weymouth said tonight is Light up Lauderdale where the DDA is a cosponsor and

encouraged everyone to attend. Now that quorum was established, roll call was taken by Marti Brown. Mr. O'Shea and Mr. Bodenhamer were not present. Chairman Weymouth asked if there was any discussion on Consent and hearing none, a ***motion was moved by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Ropes approving the items on the consent agenda.*** The following items were unanimously approved:

CONSENT AGENDA

- C-1) Approval of the minutes and follow ups from the October 8, 2015 DDA Board Meeting and the 10/23/15 Workshop.

Chairman Weymouth recognized John Bertino.

R-3 The Wave Streetcar

Mr. Wren said the design stage on the stations is far along and he wanted the team to present an update. Mr. Benzaquen went through the agenda items which were the current Wave schedule, the station designs, the VMSF design and status and the route design. He went through the milestone dates. He said the VMSF preliminary design should be done by the end of October with final design by May 2016 which will end the design activity. He said they advertised for vehicles in May 2015 and will have a notice to proceed hopefully by March 2016. He said proposals are due by November 19th then it will be a two year period until the first vehicle is delivered, estimating March 2018. He said the final design will be discussed with the partners and community. Mr. Benzaquen said then they move onto the construction/project handover. He said they are trying to procure some long list items now. He said they've been in discussions for over a year now with the private utility companies about relocations. Mr. Benzaquen said Wave construction is set to start in September 2016 as long as the final design is completed on time.

Mr. Vozzolo said community outreach will be done closely with the City, County and DDA. He said there will be a specified schedule and program. Mr. Vozzolo spoke about funding and once the grant agreement is signed by February/March they can move forward with vehicle procurement and the construction process. Mr. Vozzolo said it will be ready to ride on Oct 23, 2018. Mr. Benzaquen said there is very little room to slip because the schedule is tight. Mr. Benzaquen then went onto the station designs. He started by saying this has gone through the stakeholders, City, County and MPO. He showed various renderings of different designs and the amenities each has. Mr. Bertino asked if the stations will be graffiti free and Mr. Vozzolo said they are looking at that. Mr. Motwani asked if they considered fans and Mrs. Morejon said it's already been brought up at DRC whether solar power or fans and misters could be used. Mr. Larsen asked about the stations blocking retail in certain areas and Mr. Wren said they will look at every street and location to make sure they are aware ahead of time about this. Mr. Petrillo suggested it would be great to talk to other communities to see what they would have changed after the fact. Rain protection was also mentioned as a consideration in the station designs. Mr. Wren said they will have real time information at the station, on your phone and via computer. Mr. Wren said community outreach will probably happen six months before the construction target. Chairman Weymouth asked about underground utilities and to consider everything they can at one time rather than having to go back. The Board asked about the private utility companies and Mr. Benzaquen said these discussions have been taking place over a year and a half now showing companies what the project will look like, analyzing poles, manholes, etc. going street by street and discussing relocations. Mr. Benzaquen then showed the Board what the VMSF buildings may look like.

R-6 Request to Support Increase in FAA Building Height Limitation

Mr. Wren said he met with Courtney Crush who represents the property owners. Mrs. Crush said the location is 100 E. Las Olas and she's here today with Mr. Thomas from Kolter. She said they submitted a height of 499 feet and were issued a Notice of Presumed Hazard by the FAA. She said the Icon and Las Olas River House were approved up to 460 feet. Mr. Petrillo said he's in favor of unlimited height and the Board should show support. Mrs. Morejon said they put the onus on the developer to go through their own process but it should be a collective ask not one by one, going through the FAA and Broward Aviation. She explained further. Mr. Petrillo said the Masterplan calls for unlimited height and density in the downtown. After discussion, **Mr. Milledge said he would check into the process with costs to pursue with the FAA to get a ruling on future projects. Mr. Petrillo made a motion in support of this project no matter what the height is with Mr. Ellis seconding. All were in favor. The Board also requested a support letter be done.**

R-5 Office Lease Options

Mr. Wren said there are two presentations today to show the Board what was found so far with regard to office space. Ms. Trca began by saying they looked at a number of properties and went through each property. She highlighted the specs. **Mr. Petrillo asked if he could get a matrix of the square feet, cost, parking, essentially the "all in" cost on the low to mid-range properties.** Mr. Adams then went through the eight properties he identified. Mr. Petrillo suggested they short list the properties, have staff tour them and then come back to the Board next month. Mr. Ellis said they should consider the ambassador program and where that's going as far as space concerns. **Mr. Ellis requested that Mr. Wren ask now for a month to month with the current lease so there is no emergency if they haven't found space when the lease is up. Mr. Milledge said he would work on that. The Board will email their lists and staff will compile, tour and bring back in December.**

R-4 Security Ambassador-Program Expansion

This item was tabled until next month.

R-7 Possible Joint Meeting to Discuss Homelessness, Density, Economic Importance to Region with City and County

Mr. Wren said this item came out of the Strategic Plan where the Board expressed interest in being on the radar with the City and County on various issues. Mr. Wren said he didn't know if having joint meetings was something the Board wanted to do. **Mr. Milledge said to let him and Mr. Wren discuss this further and come back with options.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Durden said that he wanted to express his disappointment that at the last workshop where he was unable to attend, the Board had conversations about Mr. Wren. Mr. Durden said that any discussion about the Director should happen when everyone can be in attendance and everyone can speak openly and not behind closed doors and hidden. Mr. Petrillo said he agreed and said it was inappropriate and going forward they should handle it in an open forum where everyone is aware.

Mr. Ellis asked what the status was with the letter to Mr. Feldman and Mr. Wren said it was submitted two days ago. **Mr. Ellis asked Mr. Wren to follow up on that.**

D-1 News Articles

All information was in their packages.

D-2 Project Status

All information was in their packages.

D-3 Visioning Workshop Discussion

The Board asked about where they are on visioning and Mr. Wren said he'd set up another workshop.

Mrs. Morejon said that on December 8th at 2:00 the 5,000 units request will be back before the County Commission. She said there is unanimous support. **Mr. Wren urged attendance and said he would get talking points to the Board.**

As there was no other business, Chairman Weymouth adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.